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EO 12958 DECL: 09/18/2019
TAGS SNAR, MOPS, NATO, PREL, AF
SUBJECT: THE 2009 AFGHANISTAN OPIUM SURVEY: UNODC COSTA
BRIEFS NATO AND PARTNER NATIONS

Classified By: A/Political Advisor A. "Hoot" Baez. Reasons: 1.4 (b) AND (d).

1.(C/REL ISAF) BEGIN SUMMARY: On September 18 the Executive Director of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Antonio Maria Costa, briefed 2.(C/REL ISAF) In a September 18 briefing at NATO Headquarters, UNODC's Executive Director Costa said development was the driving factor to red Poverty Not the Issue

13. (C/REL ISAF) The Netherlands asked if poverty was the driving factor for farmers to cultivate opium. Costa said that even though Afghanista Law Enforcement and Military Strikes Having An Impact

14. (C/REL ISAF) Costa said that the most powerful motivating factors driving farmers away from opium cultivation were effective law enforcement USNATO 00000397 002 OF 004 new report finding and said law enforcement retaliation was more of a driving factor not to grow opium than eradication. High cultivation trend

Opium Stocks Remain High

15. (C/REL ISAF) Costa said that Afghanistan has 12,400 tons of opium stocks because it produces more than the world consumes. Costa believes t Buy Wheat In Afghanistan, not Pakistan

6.(C/REL ISAF) Costa encouraged the World Food Program (WFP) to buy wheat in Afghanistan instead of Pakistan. He said the WFP had a policy to k Infrastructure Important; "Food Zones" Ground Breaking

17. (C/REL ISAF) Costa said Afghanistan also needs better economic and agricultural infrastructure. In Costa's view, counternarcotics was not c USNATO 00000397 003 OF 004 eradication, show-cased the initiative as successful. He encouraged spreading the initiative in other provinces and said it would help other pr

Development Key, Not Eradication

8.(C/REL ISAF) Costa did highlight Afghan National Security Force and International Assistance Force operations as having a destabilizing effec Costa Positive On Triangle Initiative

19. (C/REL ISAF) In response to the UK's question on how the Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan's triangular initiative complimented counternarcot Drug-Taliban Links

10.(C/REL ISAF) Costa responded to Sweden's question on which parts of the insurgency are gaining the most from narcotics profits by pointing t Tajikistan Can Do More

111. (C/REL ISAF) He also cited far too little evidence of opium seizures in Tajikistan coming from Afghanistan. Costa attributed the ineffecti USNATO 00000397 004 OF 004 salaries, a lack of motivation, and adequate equipment.

What More Can Be Done

112. (C/REL ISAF) When the Netherlands, Russia, and Italy asked what more ISAF could do to stem opium cultivation, Costa responded that in addi 113. (C/REL ISAF) Costa encouraged all nations to contribute names of all known narco-traffickers to the 1735 U.N. Security Council list. To da

Participation

114. (C/REL ISAF) A large number of non-NATO countries were invited to the briefing, including: Afghanistan, Russia, NATO's Central Asian partr